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G-18

Delivery Schedule

Q: Why are we delivering planes more quickly to Egypt than Israel?

A: Israel already has 25 F-15s on order and we are currently delivering them; the sale announced in February is an additional commitment to Israel. Further deliveries of both the F-15 and F-16 must be planned carefully because both are just now coming into the US inventory. The F-5 is not being purchased by the USAF on the same scale as the F-15 and F-16; hence, there is no comparable impact on deliveries of the F-5 to Egypt.

Later Sales

Q: Will the U.S. consider at a later date the sales to Israel and Egypt of the aircraft denied them on this sale?

A: Our decision on the numbers of aircraft we will sell to these countries reflects our evaluation of their requirements for an adequate defense.

We have no further plans for aircraft sales to these countries at this time but obviously we would be prepared to review the situation if security developments required.

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Stetson Comment on Later Sales to Saudi Arabia

Q. What comment to you have on Secretary Stetson's statement that Saudi Arabia may need additional aircraft beyond the 60 F-15s?

A. --The Saudi request is for 60 aircraft. The Administration proposal to provide this quantity was made after careful review of all the factors involved in the sale.

--We are not aware of any Saudi planning to acquire advance aircraft beyond the 60 F-15s, and the U.S. Government has no plans to provide additional aircraft.

--We recognize the difficulty that Saudi Arabia faces in providing adequate self-defense for itself. This sale aims at helping provide this needed security.

Designation of F-16 and F-15

Q: The State Department calls the F-16 an "attack" aircraft and the F-15 an "interceptor." DOD calls the F-16 a "fighter interceptor" and the F-15 a "fighter bomber." Comments?

A: This sounds like a question for the Federal Trade Commission. I don't believe it is useful to get into a debate on labels. Clearly these aircraft can carry out -- with varying effectiveness -- a variety of missions.

We will provide the Congress with a full description of the characteristics of each plane. You should make your own judgments. The most important factors are the performance characteristics, the weapons systems and how the aircraft "fits" into the buyer's inventory -- how he intends to use it.

With respect to our Air Force, I believe the USAF intends to use the F-15 as an "air superiority" fighter and the F-16 as a "multipurpose interdiction" fighter. I believe Israel and Saudi Arabia also plan to follow that pattern.